

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY STATION  
BATON ROUGE 3, LOUISIANA

DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH

March 24, 1960

Congressman John E. Fogarty  
New House Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Fogarty:

Those of us who are concerned with the appalling shortage of speech and hearing therapists in our country are most appreciative of your efforts to help solve the problem. Members of our profession are deeply grateful to you for introducing House Joint Resolution 488. We indeed hope that it will receive favorable attention.

Of serious regret to those of us who are administering programs in the specialty in universities is the passage of time while major decisions are made. The urgency for funds is here in the present. I can speak with strong conviction since mine was one of the applications for an OVR grant that was turned down last year. With a tight university budget, it is impossible to develop a respectable training program that will attract large numbers of students; then with a limited OVR budget, it is only natural that the recipients of available funds be those universities who already have sufficient staff and rich offerings. Our state is in desperate need of qualified therapists. The current membership of the Louisiana Speech and Hearing Association is only 40, with 35 additional Associate Members - most of whom are students. Because of the dearth of qualified personnel in our state, therapists in the public schools try to work with two to four hundred children at one time. (The maximal recommended load is 75 - 100 cases.) In some instances the therapist sees his cases in groups of ten to twenty at monthly intervals. Needless to say, progress is often slow or non-existent, and the experience is exceedingly frustrating to the worker. However, only two choices prevail: to give all the speech defectives in a school system some attention, or to make a selection of cases and relegate all others to waiting lists that wait ad infinitum.

The only solution to the problem of personnel is a program of training grants to assist universities in raising their standard of training through increased staff, and through fellowships that will attract fine young students into the profession.

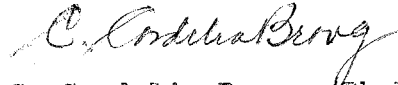
Anything that you can do to effect an increase in the funds now

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allocated to OVR for training programs in speech pathology and  
audiology will be a real contribution to human welfare.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Cordelia Brong".

C. Cordelia Brong, Ph.D.,  
Director, Speech and Hearing Clinic

CCB:fn